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Punnett's Mendelism.¹—A useful popular exposition of Mendel's law of heredity. It contains a brief biographical sketch of Gregor Mendel, an account of his experiments in hybridizing plants, the rediscovery of his law of heredity long after Mendel's death, with numerous examples of Mendelian inheritance in animals as well as in plants. No complete account is given of the development of Mendelian theory since 1900, nor does the book contain a bibliography.

W. E. C.

Hantzsch's Birds of Iceland.²—This substantial contribution to faunal ornithology is a good example of the present-day "local list," or *résumé* of the avifauna of a circumscribed area. Iceland, because of its position and physical features, affords an unusually interesting field for study. The grass-lands, the moors, the barren mountain tops, the glaciers, rivers, woods, and sea here provide a variety of country, but the rigorous environment is unsuited to many land birds.

The author in his introduction, summarizes briefly the ornithological literature of Iceland, and at the end of the chapter lists the more important works dealing with Icelandic birds. The topography of the island is then treated and the species peculiar to the different areas are listed. An interesting feature is the hot springs which never freeze in the winter and make it possible for certain species to pass the cold season in their vicinity far to the north of their usual winter range.

A number of changes in the avifauna within historic times are noted. Certain birds of prey have evidently decreased, as have also certain fresh-water ducks. Eider ducks, owing to recent protective legislation are more abundant now than formerly. The cliff-breeding Alcidae are for the most part holding their own. The Great Auk was exterminated in Iceland in 1844. Following chapters deal with the derivation of the birds of the region, their migrations, and their economic importance to the Icelandic people. The migrations are of particular interest and might well have been treated in more detail. A number of wanderers reach Iceland during the fall migrations,

¹Punnett, R. C. *Mendelism*. Macmillan and Co., London, 1905. 16mo, vii + 63 pp.

²Hantzsch, Bernhard. *Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Vogelwelt Islands*. Berlin, R. Friedländer and Sohn, 1905. 8vo, vi + 341 pp., 26 figs., 1 map. 12 Marks.